Forest fire

2694. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to devastating forest fire, a large area of forest and wildlife area engulfed in the Melghat-Gugamal tiger reserves in Amravati District, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to prevent forest fires in the tiger reseves and to protect the species of the wildlife; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the report received from State Forest Department Maharashtra, no incidence of devastating forest fires has been reported in Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve during the current fire season. However, some fire incidences of ground fire have been reported from the buffer area of Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve. The details of forest area affected due to forest fire during the last three years is as under—

Year	Total Forest Area (sq. km)	Area affected (sq. km)	Percentage
2006	2027.39	124.22	6.13
2007	2027.39	151.58	7.47
2008 (upto 10/4/08)	2027.39	60.97	3.00

(c) and (d) The following measures are adopted to prevent and control the forest fires—

— As per management plan prescriptions, fire protection works are carried out in the tiger reserves and protected area. Network of firelines is created.

— During the fire season round the clock vigil is maintained by engaging fire watchers.

— Special fire patrolling squads are deployed to extinguish the fire.

— Wireless network has been installed in 4 Forest Circles and in 10 Protected Areas.

— Awareness programmes are organized for people living in and around forest areas.

— Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various centrally sponsored schemes.

National Policy on Climate

2695. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a "National Policy on Climate";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has estimated the fund required for taking up various measures under this Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A high level coordination committee chaired by Hon'ble Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate National action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change" was constituted on 6th June, 2007. In the meeting held on 13th July 2007, it has been decided to prepare and finalise 'India's Climate Change Action Programme'.

(c) and (d) Funds required for implementing various measures outlined in the Action Programme are to be assessed by the concerned Ministries and Agencies at the time of actual implementation.

Status of funds under CAMPA

2696. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds that have been received by Forest Department from various sources against Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) during last five years;

(b) the amount of funds that have been spent by CAMPA for plantation and Green India Programmes during the last five years;

(c) the area that was covered for such plantation etc., the details thereof;

(d) whether the amount received was not spent; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The Ad-hoc Body of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) is collecting funds from the State/Union Territory Governments received by them towards Compensatory Afforestation, Penal Compensatory Afforestation, Catchment Area Treatment Plan etc. while diverting the forest land for non-forestry purpose under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. So far, an amount of about Rs. 7,000 crores has been received. As the Ad-hoc CAMPA has not been authorized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to release funds to the State/ UTs, no money has been utilized so far.

Project of Forest Development Agencies

2697. SHRI SURENDRA M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is submitted by Government of Gujarat for the project of Forest Development Agencies of Gir (East) and Gir (West);

(b) if so, the amount of fund sanctioned for the project;

(c) the amount of fund released till date; and

(d) by when the remaining fund is expected to be released to State for carrying out the remaining work of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPYATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Two project proposals seeking financial assistance under the National Afforestation Programme were submitted by the Government of Gujarat for the Forest Development Agency (FDA) projects respectively of Gir (East) and Gir (West).